

BOOK NOTICES

HOLLAND, V.L. and DAVID J. KEIL. 1995. **California Vegetation**. (ISBN 0-7872-0733-0, pbk). Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 4050 Westmark Drive, Dubuque, IA 52004-1840. \$42.95. 516 pp.

This book, originally done as a text but now revised for wider use, tells all that an average visitor or resident might want to know about California vegetation. The first 120 pages cover topography, geology, and soils; climate; vegetational history; community classification; and plant names. Most of the rest of the book is devoted to lucid discussions of California's various types of vegetation from marine habitats to alpine areas, including general descriptions, basic environmental factors (e.g., climate, soils, and human impact), and lists of important plants. Concluding each type's section is a list—often extensive—of references for further reading, a most welcome addition. The index is detailed. Liberal use is made of black-and-white photographs, many of them helpful, a few disappointing. Useful, too, are the maps showing locations of the various vegetation types and the ranges of selected California plant species. When you, as a visitor, go to California—or, as a resident, explore your state—take this book with you. You'll be glad you did.—*John W. Thieret*.

SEYMOUR, RANDY. 1997. **Wildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park**. 1997. (ISBN 0-8131-0898-5, pbk). The University Press of Kentucky, 663 South Limestone Street, Lexington, KY 40508-4008. \$17.95 + \$3.50 shipping. 254 pp.

This book includes color photographs (mostly excellent), earmarks, habitat data, flowering times, and uses/folklore of 400 species found in Mammoth Cave National Park's 53,000 diverse acres. The flowers are arranged, first, by flowering dates and, second, by color. The book tells the user where in the park—i.e., in what areas or along what trails—to find the various flowers, a welcome bonus. This work, a labor of love for its author, is beautifully done. Even if you do not visit the park, *Wildflowers* is a pleasure to look at. If you do visit, you will find the guide useful. I recommend it.—*John W. Thieret*.

KORMONDY, EDWARD J. 1996. **Concepts of Ecology**. Fourth Edition. (ISBN 0-13-478116-3, pbk). Prentice-Hall, Inc., Simon & Schuster/A Viacom Company, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458, U.S.A. Price not given, 559 pp.

From the cover: "In this new edition, Edward J. Kormondy continues to focus on ecosystem ecology with primary emphasis on energy flow, biogeochemical cycling, population ecology, and community ecology. A final section on human ecology integrates these four major areas. Designed for sophomore and junior students with minimal background in biology and chemistry, terminology is minimized, and elementary mathematics is used for quantitative aspects."